

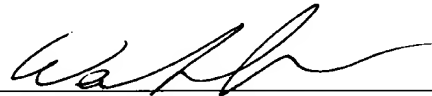
*REMARKS*

In response to the Official Action dated January 12, 2005, Applicants propose to amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the proposed Amendment and following remarks. In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, and 16 are canceled and no claims are added, so that claims 3 and 5-15 will remain pending upon entry of this Amendment.

The Official Action indicates that claims 3 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 3 is amended to include the limitations of claims 1, 2, and 16, thus making claim 3 an independent claim including allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2, and 16 are canceled. Claim 4 is cancelled as inconsistent with amended claim 3. Likewise, claim 13 is amended to include the limitations of claims 1, 2, 5, and 7, and 16, making claim 13 an independent claim. Claim 5 is amended to depend from amended claim 3. Moreover, claim 15 is amended to include the allowable subject matter recited in claim 3. Therefore, this Amendment places the application in form for allowance.

Since this Amendment places the application in form for allowance, its entry is proper. Entry of the Amendment and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



A. Wesley Ferree, Reg. No. 51,312  
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER  
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005-3960  
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)  
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

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